

Range Extensions of Three Opisthobranch Mollusks to the San Diego-La Jolla (California) Ecological Reserve

by

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SINCE JUNE, 1980, we have studied the subtidal fauna (by scuba diving) off La Jolla Shores Beach, La Jolla, California (32°51'–52'N; 117°15'–16'W) in the San Diego-La Jolla Ecological Reserve, within which collecting of any kind is prohibited. The bottom is a sandy habitat that gently slopes to about 12 m, and then precipitously, at 60° to 90° angles, drops into the La Jolla Branch of the La Jolla Submarine Canyon. The cliff faces and ledges of the canyon at 12.2 to 18.3 m consist of soft mudstone. Although this habitat supports a generally depauperate opisthobranch fauna, three of the opisthobranch species observed constitute southward range extensions.

Aglaja ocelligera (Bergh, 1894)

The reported range of *Aglaja ocelligera* (Cephalaspidea: Aglajidae) is from southern British Columbia, Canada, to Santa Cruz Island and Coal Oil Point, Santa Barbara County, California (SPHON & LANCE, 1968, p. 76; SPHON, 1972, p. 55; GOSLINER, 1980; BEHRENS, 1980, p. 32).

The following records from La Jolla Canyon extend the range southward more than 250 km:

- (1) One specimen; 10 mm long, 9.1 m deep; 8 November 1981.

- (2) Three specimens; 15 mm, 18.3 m deep; 16 mm and eggs, 15.2 m deep, inside the stomach of *Astropecten armatus*; and 20 mm, 7.6 m deep; 25 December 1981.
- (3) One specimen; 20 mm, 13.1 m deep; 7 February 1982.

The finding of one specimen inside the sea star *Astropecten armatus* Gray, 1840, is another record of predation upon an opisthobranch, a group considered to have few natural predators. MAUZEY *et al.* (1968) reported that in the Puget Sound region, another sea star, *Crossaster papposus* (Linnaeus, 1767), fed upon *Aglaja diomedea*.

Flabellina pricei (MacFarland, 1966)

The known northern range limit of *Flabellina pricei* (Nudibranchia: Aeolidacea: Flabellinidae) (generic placement follows GOSLINER & GRIFFITHS, 1981) has been expanded from the type locality of Monterey, California (MACFARLAND, 1966, p. 316), to Duxbury Reef, Marin County, California (GOSLINER & WILLIAMS, 1970, p. 177), and to Pearse Island, northern British Columbia, Canada (LAMBERT, 1976, p. 295). Its known southern range limit is Point Fermin, San Pedro, Los Angeles County, California (SPHON, 1972, p. 60).

The following specimens extend its known range southward about 145 km to La Jolla Canyon:

- (1) Three specimens; 17 mm long, 10 m deep; 13 mm, 15.2 m deep; and 18 mm, 8.5 m deep; 14 May 1982.

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Cerberilla mosslandica McDonald & Nybakken, 1975

The known distribution of *Cerberilla mosslandica* (Nudibranchia: Aeolidacea: Aeolidiidae) is restricted to the type locality of Monterey Bay, in central California, from 16 to 63 meters of water. The specimens collected by the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory benthic sampling team ranged from 5 to 9 mm in total length when alive.

The following animal seen in the La Jolla Canyon represents a southern range extension of more than 550 km, its first reported occurrence elsewhere than the type locality, a new size record, and a slightly shallower bathymetric distribution:

- (1) One specimen; 18 mm long, 12.2 m deep; 16 July 1982.

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